

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 02796 172302Z

61

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TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL: PRESS QUESTIONS

FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE MOST IMPORTANT OF THOSE LIKELY TO BE PUT
TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BY JOURNALISTS AT ARRIVAL IN BRUSSELS
OR DURING ANY SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WITH PRESS DURING DPC MINISTERIAL:

1. GENERAL. WHAT IN YOUR OPINION IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO
ALLIANCE AT PRESENT TIME? WHAT CAN ALLIANCE DO, OR WHAT IS IT
DOING TO MEET THIS THREAT?
2. DPC PROBLEMS. WHAT PROBLEMS DO YOU ANTICIPATE AT THIS YEAR'
DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING?
3. US COMMITMENT. IN FACE OF NEW ISOLATIONIST MEED IN CONGRESS,
DO YOU THINK US WILL SUCCEED IN MAINTAINING ITS TROOPS IN EUROPE?
IN KEEPING ITS COMMITMENTS TO EUROPE? WHAT EFFECT WILL AMERICAN
WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA HAVE ON ITS COMMITMENT TO DEFENSE
OF EUROPE?
4. LONG-TERM DEFENSE CONCEPT. IS THE NEW, LONG-TERM DEFENSE
CONCEPT YOU ARE GOING TO BE WORKING ON AT THIS MEETING A REPLACEMENT
FOR THE BASIC NATO STRATEGY OF FLEXIBLE RESPONSE?
5. ARMS PRODUCTION. YOU HAVE TALKED ABOUT TWO-WAY STREET IN ARMS
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PAGE 02 NATO 02796 172302Z

PRODUCTION BETWEEN US AND EUROPE, YET YOUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MALCOLM CURRIE IN RECENT SPEECH SAID US MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO
EXPORT ITS DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY -- SINCE US AND EUROPE ARE NATURAL
ECONOMIC AND TRADE RIVALS. YOU CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. WHAT IS

US POLICY IN THIS AREA?

6. US TROOPS. WHERE WILL SECOND OF THE TWO NEW US COMBAT BRIGADES FOR GERMANY BE STATIONED?

7. F-16. WHY DOES US KEEP PUSHING THE F-16 WHEN IT IS CLEAR THAT PURCHASE OF MIRAGE WILL HELP THE EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS INDUSTRY WHICH IT IS SO NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN IF EUROPE IS TO BE A REAL DEFENSE PARTNER OF THE US?

8. AWACS. WHY IS US TRYING TO SELL AWACS TO EUROPEAN ALLIES OF EXTREMELY LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES WHEN SO MANY IN US CONGRESS FEEL THAT THIS AIRCRAFT IS UNREASONABLY EXPENSIVE EVEN FOR THE UNITED STATES?

9. MAYAGUEZ. WHY DID US ATTACK CAMBODIA AFTER CAMBODIANS ANNOUNCED RELEASE OF THE MAYAGUEZ AND ITS CREW?

10. STANDARDIZATION. NATO HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT "STANDARDIZATION" AND "INTEROPERABILITY" NOW FOR SEVERAL YEARS YET LITTLE SEEMS TO HAPPEN. ANY REASONABLE EXPECTATION THAT EITHER OR BOTH WILL BE REALIZED IN NEAR FUTURE? IF NOT, WHAT IS HOLDING IT UP AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO SPEED STANDARDIZATION PROCESS? WHAT HAVE BEEN MAJOR US CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROCESS? AND, WHAT MORE IS US PREPARED TO DO TO MAKE IT BECOME A REALITY?

11. USSR-NAVAL EXERCISE. RECENT SOVIET NAVAL EXERCISES HAVE ADEQUATELY SHOWN SOVS CAPABLE OF OPERATING LARGE NAVAL UNITS IN MANY PLACES SIMULTANEOUSLY. SIGNIFICANCE, IF ANY, FOR NATO SECURITY?

12. SUEZ CANAL. WILL SUEZ CANAL OPENING FOR TRAFFIC BE A SECURITY ADVANTAGE OR DISADVANTAGE FOR NATO?

13. NATO MILITARY COMMANDER. THE ALLIANCE HAS EXISTED NOW FOR OVER QUARTER OF A CENTURY AND MILITARY COMMANDER HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN AMERICAN. WHEN, IF EVER, CAN WE EXPECT APPOINTMENT OF A EUROPEAN?
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PAGE 03 NATO 02796 172302Z

14. OIL. NOW THAT SO CALLED "OIL CRISIS" SEEMS OVER, WOULD YOU SAY THAT ARAB NEAR-MONOPOLY OF WORLD OIL SUPPLIES CONSTITUTES ANY THREAT TO NATO SECURITY?

15. NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WHEN IS THE US GOING TO REDUCE ITS TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE? WHEN IS NATO GOING TO START DISCUSSING TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE MBFR TALKS? AREN'T THE NEW MORE ACCURATE STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS US IS STRIVING FOR MORE LIKELY TO TRIGGER PREEMPTIVE STRIKE BY RUSSIANS?

16. ISRAEL-RESUPPLY IN EVENT THAT A RENEWED MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT ARISES WHICH IN US VIEW NECESSITATES LARGE US RESUPPLY EFFORT

TO ISRAEL, TO WHAT EXTENT WOULD UNITED STATES EXPECT EUROPEAN ALLIES TO ASSIST BY GRANTING TRANSIT RIGHTS OR BY ALLOWING TRANSFER OF MATERIEL STORED ON EUROPEAN SOIL? TO WHAT EXTENT WOULD US RELY ON NON-STOP AIRLIFT FROM UNITED STATES? IS US SUPPORTING AN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT IN AZORES TO OBTAIN HOLD ON AZORES BASES SO ESSENTIAL IN FERRYING US WAR MATERIEL TO THE ISRAELIS IN EVENT OF ANOTHER MIDDLE EAST WAR?

17. PORTUGAL. NOW THAT ELECTIONS OVER IN PORTUGAL, WHAT IS US VIEW OF PORTUGAL'S CONTINUANCE IN ALLIANCE?

18. SPAIN. WHY DOES US SEEM SO INTERESTED IN GETTING SPAIN INTO NATO OR AT LEAST INTO SOME CLOSER RELATION? WHAT COULD SPAIN CONTRIBUTE? GIVEN INCREASING CONCERN ABOUT PORTUGAL'S RELIABILITY, WOULD IT BE ADVISABLE FOR NATO TO ACCEPT MEMBERSHIP OF SPAIN?

19. CYPRUS. GIVEN COMPLICATIONS OF CYPRUS SITUATION, AND PROBABILITY THAT SHORT TERM SOLUTION NOT POSSIBLE, HOW SECURE CAN ALLIANCE FEEL ABOUT CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP GREECE OR TURKEY?

20. GREECE. DOES GREECE'S DEPARTURE FROM THE MILITARY SIDE OF NATO ALLIANCE CRIPPLE ALLIANCE DEFENSES IN THAT SECTOR? DO YOU EXPECT GREECE TO COME BACK INTO DPC? WHAT DOES THE RECENT LOSS OF HOME-PORTING FACILITIES IN GREECE MEAN FOR NATO SECURITY?

21. TURKEY-US MILITARY AID. ANY CHANGE NOTICEABLE IN ATTITUDE OF US CONGRESS REGARDING ENDING OF MILITARY AID PROGRAM TO TURKEY? YOUR ESTIMATE OF DAMAGE CAUSED BY CUTOFF OF AID TO TURKEY? WHAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 04 NATO 02796 172302Z

IS LIKELIHOOD THAT US WILL SOON RESUME ARMS SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY? DO YOU EXPECT TURKEY TO REMAIN WITHIN NATO IF AID NOT RESTORED? DO YOU EXPECT IT TO THROW US BASES OUT? TO GO NEUTRALIST?

22. SOUTHERN FLANK. GIVEN RECENT POLITICAL EVENTS INVOLVING TURKEY, GREECE, ITALY AND PORTUGAL, HOW MUCH STRENGTH AND SOLIDARITY COULD NATO BRING TO THREAT TO ITS SOUTHERN FLANK?

23. UK DEFENSE CUTS. HOW DO YOU VIEW RECENT UK DEFENSE CUTS AND ASSESS THEIR IMPACT ON NATO?
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